

Nahanni

MILLENNIA TO CREATE. MONTHS TO DESTROY. MOMENTS TO ACT!

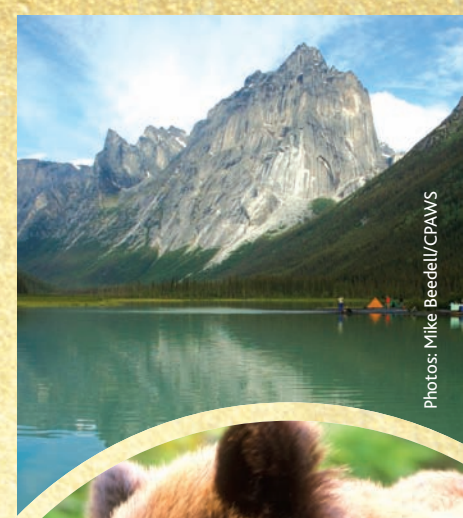
"The Nahanni is such a remote, amazingly magical place I am so rarely privileged for having seen all this. I was on the river, I was with a group of people, yet I felt alone with it. In the wilderness, you are awed and humbled by something that is so much bigger than you are, something that is so much more important than us."

~Justin Trudeau

The narrow boundaries of Nahanni National Park Reserve follow the South Nahanni River as it spills through spectacular boreal wilderness in Canada's Northwest Territories. It's an awe-inspiring landscape distinctly worthy of protection. Former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau recognized this immediately when he visited the river in 1970. In 1972 the area along part of the river was protected as a national park reserve. By 1978 it was named one of the first United Nation's natural World Heritage Sites.

But, despite its spellbinding beauty, Nahanni National Park Reserve is simply too small. Too small for woodland caribou, too small for grizzly bears, too small to protect the fragile and unparalleled karst limestone landscapes.

At CPAWS it is our mission to expand the park and ensure the future of Canada's Nahanni.



Bill Mason Productions

Photos: Mike Beedell/CPAWS

Nahanni Forever

Why expand the park?

By itself, Nahanni National Park Reserve is just one small slice of a much larger natural system. If we only protect a piece of this system, it and its inhabitants remain vulnerable to pollution, roads and development elsewhere in the larger watershed. Few other countries can boast of such a vast wild area with healthy populations of wild species and ecosystems. We owe it to ourselves, and to the world, to seize this enormous opportunity.

Expanding Nahanni National Park Reserve will also create a major cornerstone of protection in Canada's globally important boreal forest region. The sweep of forests, wetlands, lakes and rivers that stretch across the centre of Canada join ocean to ocean to ocean, forming one of the largest wilderness forest regions left on the planet. By protecting key areas of Canada's boreal wilderness we will set a new precedent for conservation. We will show to the world that Canada values its immense natural beauty, diversity and ecosystems.

CPAWS is not working alone in our efforts to protect Nahanni's water and wildlife. Parks Canada and the Dehcho and Sahtu First Nations, whose traditional lands include the watershed, have recognized Nahanni as a priority for conservation and the wheels for expansion have been set in motion. The federal government has made a commitment to expand the national park reserve. CPAWS is working to make sure the expanded boundaries include the ENTIRE watershed.



Photo: Mike Beedell/CPAWS



The South Nahanni watershed needs full protection — this whole valley that we, the Dene and the Dehcho people, have cherished for so long. We want to be able to say that people across Canada understand — that they have this soul feeling that land is important. It is in Canada alone that we can make things happen.

~ Dehcho First Nations Grand Chief
Herb Norwegian

Stop mining. Save a world renowned national park. Together, we can.

Mining threatens the tumbling waters, abundant wildlife and unique wilderness of one of the world's greatest natural wonders: Canada's Nahanni National Park Reserve.



While interest in mining exploration in several areas of the Nahanni watershed is picking up, a Vancouver-based mining company named Canadian Zinc Corporation is working to open a mine just upstream from the park's boundaries, right in the middle of the

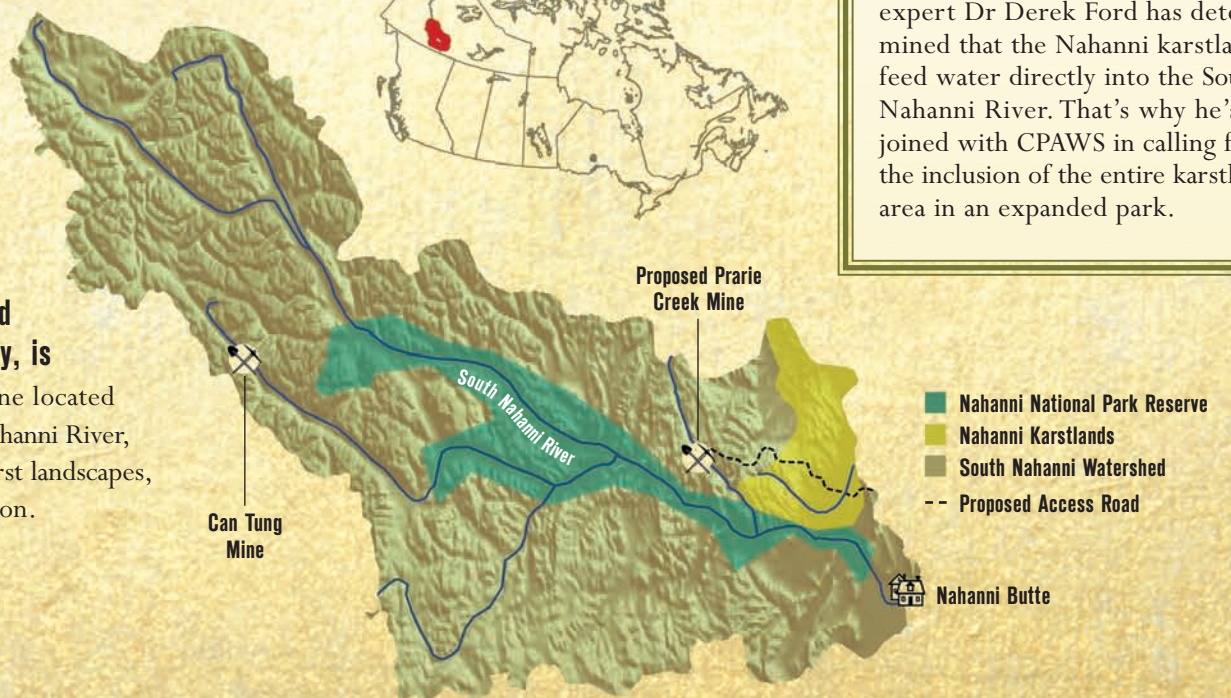
proposed park expansion area. The mine site lies alongside Prairie Creek, a tributary of the South Nahanni River, in a valley so narrow that it literally sits on the shore of the creek's waters.

The threat to Nahanni's waters and wildlife

The mine's location, and the long snaking road that is proposed to connect it to the highway, is truly a recipe for disaster. Not only is the mine located beside a creek flowing directly into the South Nahanni River, it's also adjacent to one of the world's greatest karst landscapes, increasing the risk of groundwater contamination.

Possible threats to water quality in the Nahanni watershed include:

- Potential spillage from trucks carrying toxic chemicals and concentrates back and forth over mountainous terrain, resulting in contamination of landscape and waters.
- Potential acid generation from the mine's sulphur-laden rock that could poison waterways and spread through underground drainage into surrounding areas.
- Earthquake or flood damage that could lead to spills, slides and dam breaks, contaminating the waters.



Nahanni Karst: An intricate and unique geological system.

The Nahanni karstlands are one of the features that make the South Nahanni Watershed a globally significant natural area. These fascinating limestone formations are full of caves, sinkholes, alvars, underground rivers and streams, springs and sealed lakes.

Water moves swiftly through the "secret landscape" of karst. Rivers running across the surface suddenly drop below ground, resurfacing great distances away in springs or seeps.

From above, the karstlands appear to be outside the South Nahanni Watershed, but world-renowned expert Dr Derek Ford has determined that the Nahanni karstlands feed water directly into the South Nahanni River. That's why he's joined with CPAWS in calling for the inclusion of the entire karstland area in an expanded park.

The road dividing our wilderness

A road that would link the mine to the highway poses an equally great threat to the Nahanni ecosystem. Canadian Zinc Corporation wants to upgrade and rebuild a road which, since it was last used decades ago, has slowly begun reverting back to a wild state.

Now the company wants to bulldoze the new growth, open the road and convert it to an all-season transportation corridor to carry heavy trucks to and from the mine. The company itself has described the road as potentially "treacherous under winter weather conditions."

The road's long length, steep terrain and location make it a major threat to the ecological health of the Nahanni ecosystem:

- The road will destroy and divide wildlife habitat increasing human access, dust and disturbance.
- Heavy truck traffic will likely leave behind wildlife-damaging contaminants like oil and heavy metals.
- The road runs across delicate karst geological formations – a landscape that is particularly prone to contamination because water flows through karst tens to thousands of times faster than through conventional bedrock.

Show your support now. Let's keep the Nahanni Forever. Go to: www.cpaws.org

A promising future at risk



Nahanni National Park Reserve was one of the first landscapes to be designated a **United Nations World Heritage Site**. As proud Canadians, we simply can't allow this part of our own heritage to be destroyed. By stopping mining activity in this area, we'll be able to move forward to expand

the park to include the entire watershed, and to protect the future of Nahanni and its unique wildlife.



CPAWS A leader on the ground across Canada's boreal wilderness

CPAWS chapters from coast to coast to coast are working to protect Canada's boreal wilderness home to the biggest remaining stretches of intact forestlands in the world. We're dedicated to securing protection for key areas like the Nahanni. And we're working to change the way Canadians approach conservation of the great ecosystems that are right here, in our own backyards.



We're working with Aboriginal peoples, governments and industry, and with the Canadian Boreal Initiative, to implement the Boreal Forest Conservation Framework – an effort that calls for conservation-first land-use planning throughout the boreal region and permanent protection for a minimum of 50% of the boreal region from industrial uses.

CPAWS is working across Canada for boreal protection

Across the country CPAWS is creating a new vision for the conservation of one of the world's great remaining forest regions:

- **In Quebec**, we're campaigning to protect the Dumoine Watershed, the last wild watershed in southwestern Quebec, while advocating for expansion of the province's protected areas system.
- **In Ontario**, we're calling on the Province to keep its promise to plan for conservation before any development, like the proposed Victor Diamond Mine, gets underway in the remaining intact northern boreal forests and wetlands.
- **In Manitoba**, we continue our mission to create a new national park on the shores and forests of Lake Winnipeg.
- **In Saskatchewan**, we're focusing on the magnificent Churchill River basin, calling for a network of large protected areas in the river's watershed and throughout the province's boreal wilderness forests.

- **In Alberta**, we're working to reform forestry practices through promotion of Forest Stewardship Council standards, and protecting key areas and rare species, like the endangered woodland caribou.
- **In British Columbia**, we are implementing the groundbreaking conservation precedent set by the Muskwa Kechika land-use plan in the northern Rocky Mountains and protecting the boreal forests that stretch across the province's borders.
- **In the Yukon**, we're working with the territory's First Nations in the land claims process to secure large new protected areas. And we're publicizing the Three Rivers – the Snake, the Wind and the Bonnet Plume – as a magnificent boreal mountain watershed in need of protection.
- **In NWT**, along with our efforts to protect Nahanni, CPAWS is deeply involved in efforts to establish a full network of protected lands across the territory before large scale industrial development occurs.



Photos: Mike Beedel/CPAWS

Photo: Wayne Sawchuck

Nahanni Forever.

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- ✦ JOIN CPAWS' NAHANNI FOREVER CAMPAIGN.
- ✦ WE NEED 100,000 CANADIANS TO SHOW THAT THEY CARE. COUNT YOURSELF IN!
- ✦ SEND A LETTER TO YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE THROUGH OUR EASY-TO-USE ON-LINE TOOLS. IT'S FAST AND EFFECTIVE.

GO TO:

www.cpaws.org



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